

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /074 W

----- 105358

P 210655Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1048

INFO: RUEHBAM/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 038

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PP

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE THREAT

1. TENSION HAS MOUNTED BETWEEN THE GPNG AND THE PSA (PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION-UNION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) SINCE THE PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET ON SEPTEMBER 30. THE TENSION RESULTED FROM THE GPNG ACTION IN REDUCING THE BASE ON WHICH THE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE IS COMPUTED BECAUSE OF BUDGETING STRINGENCY.

2. PSA CALLED A MASS RALLY OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS ON NOVEMBER 19. SOME 700 ATTENDED, AND VOTED FOR A NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN TWO DAYS, PROVIDED THE GPNG WAS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER STRIKE WOULD BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 22 OR ON THE 24TH.

COMMENT: BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BELIEVES PSA DOES NOT WANT A STRIKE BUT IS WILLING TO CALL ONE IF GPNG DOES NOT COME TO CONFERENCE TABLE.

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BIR BELIEVES PSA MEMBERSHIP WOULD FOLLOW ITS

LEADERS IF A STRIKE IS CALLED.

COMPROMISE ON THE LEVEL OF THE BASE ON WHICH THE COL ALLOWANCE IS COMPUTED IS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, CABINET IS CURRENTLY MEETING IN NEW IRELAND, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FROM PORT MORESBY, AND MAY BE ISOLATED FROM ACCURATE INFORMATION ON PSA ATTITUDES. THERE IS SOME INFORMATION THAT GPNG DOES NOT BELIEVE THE STRIKE THREAT IS CREDIBLE, AND MAY INTEND TO HOLD TO EARLIER POSITION BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL PRESSURES.

PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS ARE ALREADY ANGRY WITH GPNG FOR ITS FAILURE TO REGISTER (AND HENCE PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF) AWARDS RECENTLY WON THROUGH ARBITRATION. PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS COULD REINFORCE EACH OTHER'S SENSE OF GRIEVANCE AGAINST GPNG AND WIDESPREAD STRIKES COULD RESULT.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, PP
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